

thing, but when publications in this country stop going out of business I will stop talking about the problem that he has created for those publications.

I do not want to bring these matters to the minister's attention more frequently than is necessary, and so on this evening, in my discussion of publications I will be dealing only with the weeklies. I think the Postmaster General a few weeks ago told the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) that this was the category of publications least injured by his new rates. The *Canadian Weekly Publisher* of April, 1969, volume 52, issue No. 4, deals with the matter pretty strongly. They deal with it in a way which indicates that they know because they are suffering. The article is entitled "Post Office Costs Kill Weeklies". It reads:

Postal rate increase that went into effect April 1, already is blamed for the demise of several weekly newspapers, according to information received at the national office of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association.

CWNA queried its members on the effects of the new rates and some of the replies are reprinted below—

Manitoba Weekly Newspapers Association reports four papers have folded in Manitoba since January, three of which became defunct due to postal increase—

A small Alberta publisher complains that he has been forced to increase subscription rates—

A British Columbia publisher reports that his second newspaper had to be suspended due to the increased postal rate—

Another B.C. newspaper reports that due to increased postal rates "we have had to switch our circulation from mail to carrier delivery"—

There has been, of course, a consequent diminution of their service to the readers.

The same applies to Saskatchewan, western Ontario and other areas. In other words, what is happening now is what we forecast, namely, that publications would be forced to go out of business and that they would not be able to absorb the costs which are passed on to the subscribers. They have not been able to absorb the costs in the happy, casual way that the minister indicated would be possible when he brought in these very heavy rates some time ago.

This is part of the story all across the country. The dissemination of ideas through the printed word has been diminished and cut back, and the people of Canada are suffering in this regard. It is not anything that anyone can be proud of when, by a decision of the government, a newspaper has to go out of business. I noted the other day that a group

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of publishers in Quebec gave serious consideration to suggesting that something special be done to keep publications in business.

Mr. Benjamin: You are out of "time".

Mr. Macquarrie: My friend suggests we should join the *Time* magazine group, but I do not know how exclusive that organization is. I think perhaps it is not a case of open Sesame there.

Mr. Bell: It is quite loose.

Mr. Macquarrie: A humorist over there says it is quite loose. That is a good bit of punning for this hour of the night.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): All of us here are getting on the record.

Mr. Macquarrie: I want to conclude—and I hope the minister will notice that I am not taking my full seven minutes—by reading something that is edged in black in the old fashioned way in the *Canadian Weekly Publisher* of April, 1969. It is entitled "Out of Respect". It reads:

The new postal rates for newspapers, and there is nothing second rate about them except the mail service itself, went into effect April 1.

The black border around this announcement is out of respect for a number of Canadian weekly newspapers that ceased publication or curtailed it considerably as a result of this measure. We are afraid more will follow.

It may be also fitting, that on the same day the Postmaster General, who master minded this measure, became the Minister of Communications.

Although that was edged in black, it did have a touch of humour, that he who, on the one hand, would become the great communicator, when it comes to the printed word, is the great excommunicator.

• (10:20 p.m.)

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I enjoy these evening sessions with the hon. gentleman and others who remain in the house at this hour. He is predictable. Whether he has been spurred on by one of his colleagues or whether he does so on his own initiative he will bring up the subject of *Time* magazine, with the implication that it is receiving some favourable rate. This is a distortion. *Time* magazine is paying exactly the same rate as all magazines in its class pay.

I find it a little presumptuous on the part of the hon. member that he should twit this government when it was his own government which established the O'Leary Commission to